Nature Quest
LEAVES

Kit contains:

- Leaf dial template
- Brass fastener

You will need: scissors and a nail or sharp pencil.

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INSTRUCTIONS

Step 1. Assemble your leaf identifier.

Step 2. Take your leaf identifier out on a Nature Quest! Can you find all the plants to which the leaves belong?

Common Lilac
(*Syringa vulgaris*)

If you go outside in May, you'll find lilac bushes covered in fragrant purple flowers.

Dandelion
(*Taraxacum officinale*)

You might think of dandelions as weeds, but their leaves are salad greens and their roots make a coffee-like drink.

Northern Red Oak
(*Quercus rubra)*

The Northern red oak is native to the Midwest. It produces acorns, a tasty food source for birds, squirrels, bears, deer, and raccoons.

Daylily
(genus *Hemerocallis*)

There are many varieties of daylily. *Hemerocallis* is derived from Greek words ἡμέρα meaning “day” and καλός meaning beauty.”

Paper or White Birch
(*Betula papyrifera)*

You’ll recognize the birch by its distinctive bark, which was once used by Native Americans to build baskets and canoes.

Japanese Maple
(*Acer palmatum)*

Many varieties of this maple tree don't wait until fall to turn red. They still produce "helicopter" seeds.

Ginkgo
(*Ginkgo biloba)*

Ginkgo trees are older than the dinosaurs. Their earliest leaf fossils date back to 270 million years ago.

American Beech
(*Fagus grandifolia)*

This Chicago native produces beech nuts nestled inside prickly husks. You can snack on them when roasted.

(Source: The Morton Arboretum)